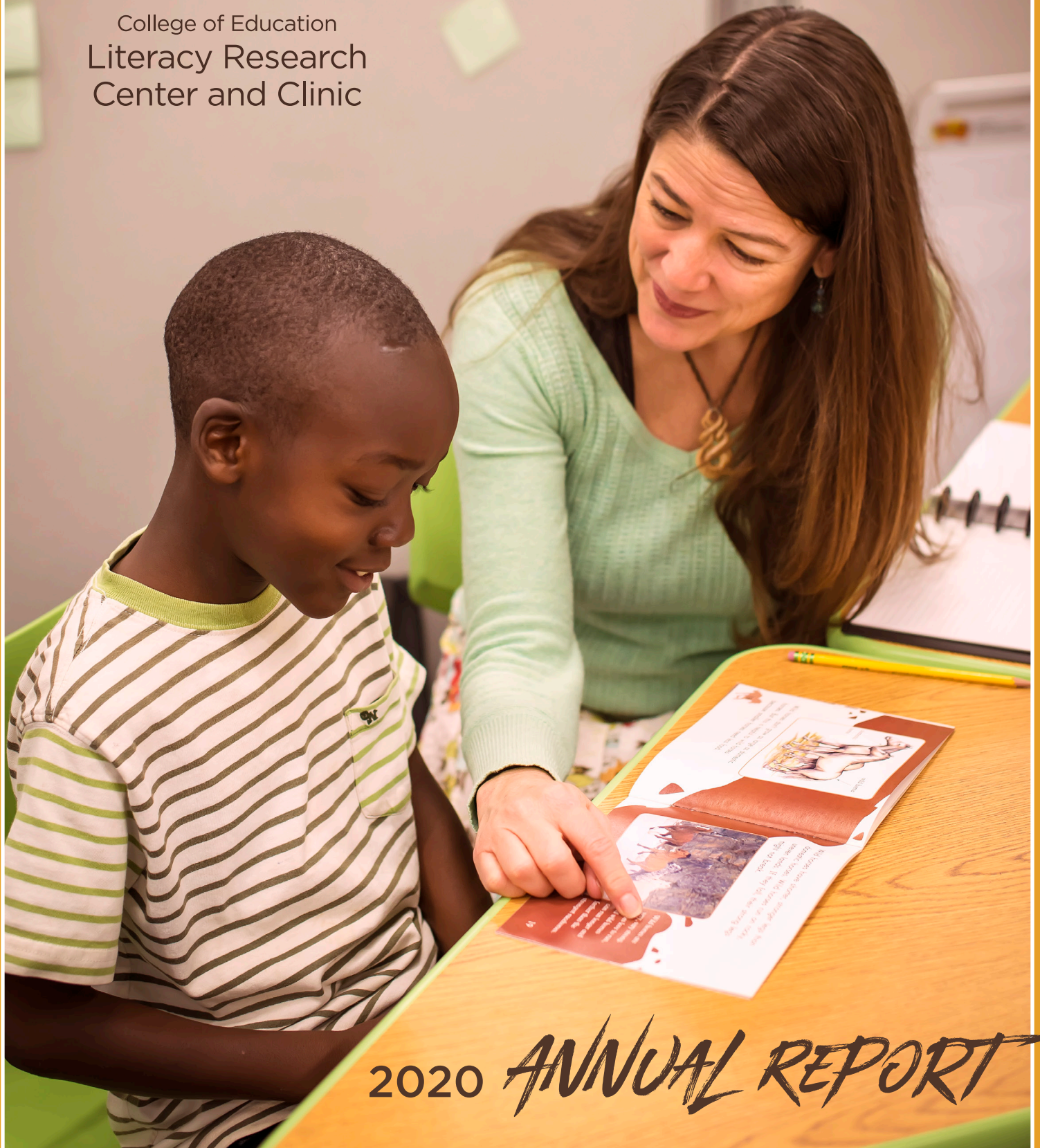




UNIVERSITY
OF WYOMING

College of Education
Literacy Research
Center and Clinic



2020 *ANNUAL REPORT*



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This last year has been quite a year! As you might expect, the COVID-19 pandemic has prompted a pause on some of the work of the Literacy Research Center and Clinic (LRCC) in schools and communities around the state, as well as in our clinical context. Yet at the same time, it has also allowed us to move forward with some of our initiatives in new and exciting ways. As they say, change is good.

Over the past year, the LRCC provided services and support in eight school districts or counties and worked with countless children, families, and pre-service and in-service teachers in our literacy clinic and in schools and centers around the state. Our work with Arapaho Tribe is also continuing, and we have a new partnership emerging with Fort Laramie State Park. Helping us in our efforts are our five funded graduate students and members of the literacy faculty at UW. Among the different partnerships and projects that we have taken on, here are just a few of the update highlights.

- Our clinic: When UW moved online in the spring, it closed down our clinical experience. During this time, we have worked to put in place a remote clinical experience through distance-based technologies. We ran entirely remotely over the summer, and now this fall (2020), we are running both remote and in-person tutoring. With these structures in place, we can now provide these important services to families across the state while also opening up our tutor possibilities to educators across the state. As part of this work and through the establishment of the Peterson Family Internship, we now are able to provide internship experiences to undergraduate education students to support the efforts of the clinic and of the LRCC more broadly.
- Supporting the literacy learning of our youngest citizens: In partnership with the Wyoming Early Childhood Educator Network (WY-ECON), the LRCC has finalized a catalogue of 24 stand-alone online professional development modules related to literacy teaching and learning for children, birth through age 5. Topics range from specific teaching practices and establishing successful classroom contexts to assessment and partnering with families and communities, to name just a few. Content is already partially developed, and our projected timeline for starting to bring these modules to regional facilitators and early childhood teachers across the state is summer of 2021.
- Supporting students who find reading challenging: Our first Alexa® Skill module on understanding dyslexia is in its final stages of being loaded into the Skill platform. In addition, the LRCC and College of Education partnered with the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) to co-organize a virtual literacy conference during August 2020, bringing in 18 experts from across the country to discuss the science of reading. There were more than 559 educators who have participated in this experience and representation from 41 of the 48 Wyoming school districts. Finally, with the WDE and McREL International, the LRCC has taken an instrumental role in the development of the WDE's implementation guide in response to HB 297, which legislatively mandates the use of evidence-based instruction and assessment practices with all students. Specifically, this legislation prompts schools to identify potential reading challenges and respond with targeted instruction. As follow-up to the WDE implementation guide—The K-3 Comprehensive Reading Framework—McREL International and the LRCC are working together to pilot school-wide professional development efforts aligned to the framework that specifically target populations of students with potential risks for reading challenges (e.g., English language learners, special education students, Native American populations).

At the LRCC, we take tremendous pride in the successes we have enjoyed promoting literacy learning and instruction in Wyoming's schools and centers and with families across the state. We are forever grateful to the Wyoming Governor's Office, Legislature, and our numerous donors for their ongoing support. Your generosity has not gone unnoticed.

Take care,

Dana A. Robertson

Dr. Dana A. Robertson
Executive Director
Literacy Research Center and Clinic

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

8 Number of school districts and centers participating in professional development

480+ Number of educators statewide—and beyond—participating in distance-based or technology-mediated professional development

82% Average percentage of educators who showed improved knowledge and application of literacy teaching practices

CONFERENCES

550+ Number of educators who attended conferences supported by the LRCC development

41 Wyoming school districts represented in 2020

75 Number of educators from states other than WY represented in 2020

LRCC CLINIC

101 Number of school-aged students who have participated in clinical services since 2017

14 Average number of students per semester

1/2 YEAR GAIN

Average achievement growth of students who received tutoring during 14, 90-minute sessions

SCHOLARLY ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

54 Peer-reviewed conference presentations

31 Publications

12 Invited presentations

3 WWP Scholar publications

3 Awards and honors





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